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Messiah

GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL'S

ORATORIO

SYMPHONY HALL, Boston

SUNDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 19, 1937

MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 20, 1937

One Hundred and Twenty-third Season

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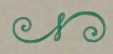

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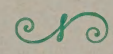

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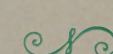

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Born in Halle, February 23, 1685 — Died in London, April 13, 1759

THE MESSIAH

ORATORIO, composed in 1741; begun August 22, finished September 14. Text selected from the Scriptures by CHARLES JENNENS. Produced in Dublin, April 13, 1742, under the direction of HANDEL. Additional accompaniments by MOZART, 1789; and by ROBERT FRANZ, for the use of the Handel and Haydn Society, completed and published in 1884. First performance by the Handel and Haydn Society, December 25, 1818, in Boylston Hall; present performance the 169th.

PART ONE

THE PROPHECIES AND THE FULFILMENT

1. Overture (grave: Fugue).

TENOR RECITATIVE

2. Comfort ye my people, saith your God; speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem; and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord: make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

ARIA

3. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low: the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

CHORUS

4. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed; and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

BASS RECITATIVE

5. Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: Yet once a little while, and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come; the Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant whom ye delight in; behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.

ARIA

6. But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth?
For He is like a refiner's fire.

ALTO RECITATIVE

7. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name EMMANUEL. God with us.

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ARIA

8. O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain. O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid: say unto the cities of Judah, Behold, your God! Arise; shine; for thy light is come; and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

BASS RECITATIVE

9. For behold darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee and His glory shall be seen upon thee, and the Gentiles shall come to Thy light, and kings to the brightness of Thy rising.

ARIA

10. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath light shined.

CHORUS

11. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

12. Pastoral Symphony (on the traditional air of the Calabrian pifferari).

SOPRANO RECITATIVE

13. There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

14. And lo! the angel of the Lord came upon them; and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

15. And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

16. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying:

CHORUS

17. Glory to God in the highest; and peace on earth, good will towards men.

SOPRANO ARIA

18. Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, thy King cometh unto thee! He is the righteous Savior; and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

ALTO RECITATIVE

19. Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened; and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

ALTO AND SOPRANO ARIA

20. He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom; and gently lead those that are with young. . . . Come unto Him, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and He will give you rest; Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him; for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

CHORUS

21. His yoke is easy, and his burden is light.

END OF PART ONE

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PART TWO

THE PASSION AND THE TRIUMPH

CHORUS

22. Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.

ALTO ARIA

23. He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

CHORUS

24. Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him.

TENOR RECITATIVE

25. Thy rebuke hath broken His heart; He is full of heaviness; He looked for some to have pity on Him, but there was no man; neither found He any to comfort Him.

ARIA

26. Behold and see, if there be any sorrow like unto His sorrow.

CHORUS

27. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is the King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is the King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.

BASS ARIA

28. Why do the nations so furiously rage together; and why do the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His anointed.

CHORUS

29. Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. HALLELUJAH!

SOPRANO ARIA

30. I know that my Redeemer liveth; and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

BASS RECITATIVE

31. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep; but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinking of an eye, at the last trumpet.

ARIA

32. The trumpet shall sound; and the dead shall be raised incorruptible; and we shall be changed.

CHORUS

33. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength and honour, and glory, and blessing. Blessing and honour, glory and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, forever and ever.

34. Amen!

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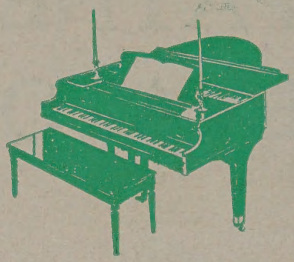

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